WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated or recombinant polynucleotide encoding an antigenic polypeptide comprising:
   a) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the mature coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 2;
   b) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the mature coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 4; or
   c) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the mature coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 5.

2. The polynucleotide of Claim 1, encoding a mature polypeptide of:
   a) SEQ ID NO: 2; or
   b) SEQ ID NO: 4.

3. The polynucleotide of Claim 1, which hybridizes at 55° C, less than 500 mM salt, and 50% formamide to:
   a) the coding portions of SEQ ID NO: 1; or
   b) the coding portions of SEQ ID NO: 3.

4. The polynucleotide of Claim 3, comprising:
   a) at least 35 contiguous nucleotides of the coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 1; or
   b) at least 35 contiguous nucleotides of the coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 3.

5. An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 1.

6. A host cell containing the expression vector of Claim 5, including a eukaryotic cell.

7. A method of making an antigenic polypeptide comprising expressing a recombinant polynucleotide of Claim 1.

8. A method for the detection of a polynucleotide of Claim 1, comprising contacting said polynucleotide with a probe that hybridizes, under stringent conditions, to at least 25 contiguous nucleotides of:

a) the coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 1; or

b) the coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 3;

to form a duplex, wherein detection of said duplex indicates the presence of said polynucleotide.

9. A kit for the detection of a polynucleotide of Claim 1, comprising a compartment containing a probe that hybridizes, under stringent hybridization conditions, to at least 17 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of Claim 1 to form a duplex.

10. The kit of claim 9, wherein said probe is detectably labeled.

11. A binding compound comprising an antibody binding site which specifically binds to:

a) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO: 2;

b) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO: 4; or

c) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO: 5.

12. The binding compound of Claim 11, wherein:

a) said antibody binding site is:

1) specifically immunoreactive with a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2;

2) specifically immunoreactive with a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 4;

3) specifically immunoreactive with a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 5;

4) raised against a purified or recombinantly produced human IL-B30 protein;

5) raised against a purified or recombinantly produced mouse IL-B30;

6) in a monoclonal antibody, Fab, or F(ab)2; or

b) said binding compound is:

1) an antibody molecule;

2) a polyclonal antiserum;

3) detectably labeled;

4) sterile; or

5) in a buffered composition.

13. A method using the binding compound of Claim 11, comprising contacting said binding compound with a biological sample comprising an antigen, wherein said contacting results in formation of a binding compound:antigen complex.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said biological sample is from a human, and wherein said binding compound is an antibody.

15. A detection kit comprising said binding compound of Claim 12, and:

a) instructional material for the use of said binding compound for said detection; or

b) a compartment providing segregation of said binding compound.

16. A substantially pure or isolated antigenic polypeptide, which binds to said binding composition of Claim 11, and further comprises:

a) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO: 2;

b) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO: 4; or

c) at least 17 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO: 5.

17. The polypeptide of Claim 16, which:

a) comprises at least a fragment of at least 25 contiguous amino acid residues from a primate IL-B30 protein;

b) comprises at least a fragment of at least 25 contiguous amino acid residues from a rodent IL-B30 protein;

c) is a soluble polypeptide;

d) is detectably labeled;

e) is in a sterile composition;

f) is in a buffered composition;

g) binds to a cell surface receptor;

h) is recombinantly produced; or

i) has a naturally occurring polypeptide sequence.

18. The polypeptide of Claim 17, which:

a) comprises at least 17 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 2;

b) comprises at least 17 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 4; or

c) comprises at least 17 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 5.

19. A method of modulating physiology or development of a cell or tissue culture cells comprising contacting said cell with an agonist or antagonist of a mammalian IL-B30.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein:

a) said contacting is in combination with an agonist or antagonist of G-CSF and/or IL-6; or

b) said contacting is with an antagonist, including binding composition comprising an antibody binding site which specifically binds an IL-B30.

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